

LDAF FALL SEMINAR 2025

L'Auberge Casino • Lake Charles, LA



LOUISIANA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

2025 LDAF FALL SEMINAR

OCTOBER 14-16, 2025

L'AUBERGE CASINO RESORT

777 AVENUE L'AUBERGE

LAKE CHARLES, LA 71351

AGENDA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

10:30-5:30	Registration	Registration Table
12:45-1:00	Welcome and Announcements	Ballroom DE

Hon. Bradley R. Burget – District Attorney, LDAF President

7th Judicial District, Vidalia, LA

Mr. Zachary T. Daniels – Executive Director

Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Baton Rouge, LA

Ms. W. Claire Howington – Assistant District Attorney, ADA Section President

16th Judicial District, New Iberia, LA

1:00-2:30	SESSION #1	1.5 CLE CREDITS
	GENERAL SESSION	Ballroom DE

Cross Examination of Experts

This session explores effective strategies for the cross-examination of expert witnesses in litigation. Learn how to challenge the credibility, methodology, and conclusions of opposing experts while maintaining professionalism and clarity for the judge or jury. The discussion will cover preparation techniques, common pitfalls, and practical examples drawn from real-world cases. Ideal for litigators seeking to refine their courtroom advocacy skills.

Ms. Dana Cummings, Assistant District Attorney, Chief of Litigation

19th Judicial District, Baton Rouge, LA

Ms. Kathleen Barrios Heap, Assistant District Attorney

19th Judicial District, Baton Rouge, LA

2:30-2:45	BREAK
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2:45-3:45	SESSION #2	1.0 CLE CREDIT
	GENERAL SESSION	Ballroom DE

Mastering Masking: Legal and Ethical Consequences of Pleas Negotiations Involving CDLs

Federal law prohibits the "Masking" of convictions. Misconceptions continue to persist surrounding this statute's mandate requiring the accurate reporting of violations and convictions involving CDLs, which in turn limits discretion in handling these cases. Attendees of this course learn to appreciate how the enforcement of this and other regulations

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combine to reduce injury and death by keeping unsafe commercial driver's license (CDL) holders off the roads and ensuring that each driver has one driver's license and one complete driver's record.

Ms. Jill Bennett, Staff Attorney

National Traffic Law Center, NDAA, Arlington, VA

3:45-4:00 BREAK

4:00-5:30 SESSION #3

1.5 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Recent Decisions

The courts are working hard! New cases are constantly refining and redefining how prosecution in Louisiana occurs. Join us as we explore case law development within the criminal world.

Honorable Cade Cole, Associate Justice

Louisiana Supreme Court, New Orleans, LA

5:30-6:30

SOCIAL HOUR

BALLROOM F

CONTRIBUTIONS BY KARPEL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

8:00-5:15 Registration

Registration Table

8:30-9:45 SESSION #4

1.25 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Human Trafficking- Trafficking of Children

This session provides a focused examination of the trafficking of children, one of the most urgent and heartbreaking aspects of human trafficking. Attendees will gain insight into the methods traffickers use to exploit minors, the legal frameworks in place to protect victims, and the challenges faced by law enforcement, advocates, and the judicial system. The program will also highlight best practices for identifying, supporting, and advocating for child victims within legal and community settings.

Mr. Zachary Popovich, Assistant District Attorney

22nd Judicial District, Covington, LA

Ms. Ongelle J. Bergeron, MSN, PMHNP-BC

Morgan Rae Center for Hope/CARE Center, New Orleans, LA

4A BREAKOUT – HIGHWAY SAFETY TRACK

Ballroom A

Smith v. Arizona

This session will explore the foundational cases leading up to *Smith v. Arizona*, provide an in-depth discussion of the Court's holding, and examine how Louisiana courts have applied *Smith* in practice.

Honorable Timothy Marcel, Appellate Court Judge

5th Circuit Court of Appeal, Gretna, LA

Mrs. Jacqueline Sanchez, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Baton Rouge, LA

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9:45-10:00 BREAK

10:00-11:30 SESSION #5

1.5 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Cell Phone Dump

This training will provide an overview of the cell phone dump process, including methods for extracting data from mobile devices and best practices for handling and analyzing the information collected. Participants will learn about the types of data typically retrieved - such as call logs, messages, media file, and location history – and the tools used in digital forensics. Emphasis will be placed on legal considerations, data integrity, and chain of custody to ensure proper handling for investigative or legal purposes.

Detective Jerod Abshire, Digital Forensic Investigator

Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, LA

Mr. Jacob Johnson, 1st Assistant District Attorney

14th Judicial District, Lake Charles, LA

Mr. Charles Robinson, Assistant District Attorney, Chief of Litigation

14th Judicial District, Lake Charles, LA

5A BREAKOUT – HIGHWAY SAFETY TRACK

Ballroom A

Retrograde Extrapolation

This session will provide attorneys with a clear understanding of retrograde extrapolation, exploring both the possibilities it offers in estimating blood alcohol concentrations and the important limitations that must be considered. Participants will learn what can and cannot be reliably done in these calculations to better prepare for courtroom application.

Dr. Joseph Jones, System Director

North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory, Shreveport, LA

5B BREAKOUT – IV-D TRACK

Ballroom B

Incarcerated NCP's - Navigating LA R.S. 9:311.1

Explanation of the law and how it applies to DCFS Policy. Jail caseloads made easier and filing rules, affidavits and other pleadings.

Rachel Hurd - Assistant District Attorney, Division Chief

Orleans District Attorney's Office, New Orleans, LA

5C BREAKOUT – PIO/ADMINISTRATION TRACK

Ballroom C

Compassion-Led Management

Explore how empathy and accountability can work hand in hand to create healthier, more resilient teams. This session will highlight practical strategies for fostering trust, psychological safety, and stronger collaboration through compassionate leadership.

Heidi Irwin, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Lafourche Parish District Attorney's Office, Thibodaux, LA 70301

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11:30-1:00 WORKING LUNCH BY AXON

BALLROOM DE

ENGINEERING JUSTICE FOR TOMORROW

A forward-looking session on how prosecutors can adapt to the accelerating pace of digital evidence. Brent Berkly, former prosecutor and current Strategic Relationships Director for Axon Justice, will explore how digital evidence management has evolved, why inertia remains the biggest barrier to modernization, and how cloud-based tools like Axon Justice, Evidence.com, and BriefOne can transform case preparation, efficiency, and recruitment. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for embracing technology to deliver justice more effectively in the 21st century/.

*Mr. Brent G. Berkley, Esq., Strategic Relationships Director, Justice
Axon Enterprises, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ*

1:00-2:30 SESSION #6

1.5 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

"Crimmigration" for Prosecutors

An overview of how Criminal Law and Immigration intersect in the prosecution of cases and immigration enforcement.

Mrs. Autumn Cheramie, Assistant Chief Counsel

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Principal Legal Advisor, New Orleans, LA

Ms. Emily Booth, Assistant Chief Counsel

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Principal Legal Advisor, New Orleans, LA

6A BREAKOUT – VICTIMS TRACK

Ballroom A

Victim Notification & An Overview On Victim Assistance Coordinators

This session will provide an overview on victim notification options and what the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is doing to ensure victims are notified regarding projected release dates, sentencing, and hearings before the Board of Pardons or Committee on Parole. We will also discuss what Victim Assistance Coordinators do (and don't do) for victims.

*Mrs. Leone Fitzgerald, President of the LDAF Victims Assistance Coordinators Board
Director, Victims Assistance Program, 1st Judicial District, Shreveport, LA*

6B BREAKOUT – IV-D TRACK

Ballroom B

Ready. Set. eFile.

This course will explore how your office uses GovLink today and lays the groundwork for tomorrow's eFiling success. We will zoom out to the big picture – people, process, and platform – to show how GovLink will drive faster filings, acceptance rates, and quality when eFiling goes live.

Ms. Misty Harry, Executive Vice President

GreenCourt, Legal Technologies, LLC, Carrollton, GA

Ms. Megan Butler, Customer Concierge

GreenCourt, Legal Technologies, LLC, Carrollton, GA

Ms. Lisa Andry - Government Services Consultants

GreenCourt Legal Technologies, LLC, Baton Rouge, LA

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6C BREAKOUT – PIO/ADMINISTRATION TRACK

Ballroom C

Justice, Transparency, and Trust: How a District Attorney's Office Can Use Social Media to Serve the Public

In an era of instant information and public skepticism, District Attorney's Offices have a powerful opportunity and responsibility to engage directly with the communities they serve. This session explores how social media can be used as a strategic tool to build trust, promote transparency, and educate the public about the justice system. We'll break down key strategies, discuss real-world impact, and look at why an intentional digital presence matters now more than ever. Whether you're starting from scratch or refining your approach, this conversation will offer practical insights and actionable takeaways.

Mr. David Melancon, Public Information Officer

17th Judicial District, Thibodeaux, LA

2:30-2:45 BREAK

2:45-4:00 SESSION #7

1.25 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Key Aspects of Sex Offender Registration & Notification for Prosecutors

AAG Erica Moore will hone in on the most important aspects of sex offender registration that prosecutors need to know and take into consideration before conviction for sex crimes and child predator cases, debunk common misconceptions, and clarify procedures - and agency roles - for post-conviction motions for relief.

Mrs. Erica McLellan Moore, Assistant Attorney General, Sexual Predator Unit Section Chief

Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Baton Rouge, LA

7A BREAKOUT – VICTIMS TRACK

Ballroom A

Domestic Violence: Legal Frameworks

This course explores the legal dimensions of domestic violence, including criminal and civil remedies, protective orders, mandatory reporting, and the role of law enforcement and the courts.

Mrs. Emilia S. Pardo, Assistant District Attorney

15th Judicial District, Lafayette, LA

7B BREAKOUT – IV-D TRACK

Ballroom B

State Office Insights: A Roundtable on Louisiana's IV-D Child Support Program

Join us for an open roundtable discussion with Louisiana's State Office leadership on IV-D Child Support programs, guided by participant-submitted questions.

Ms. Konitra Jack, Child Support Enforcement Director, State of Louisiana

Mr. Gary Franklin, Deputy General Counsel 2, State of Louisiana

7C BREAKOUT – PIO/ADMINISTRATION TRACK

Ballroom C

Managing Digital Evidence in PbK

Join us for a session on managing digital evidence with PROSECUTORbyKarpel. We'll review PbK's media tools, integrations with Evidence.com and NICE, and provide a demo of the 7.6 release. Learn how other PbK Customers are managing digital data, explore best practices to reduce storage costs, and see examples of prosecutors nationwide working with justice partners to streamline access and maintain budgets.

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Mr. Jeff Karpel, CEO
Karpel Solutions, St. Louis MO

4:00-4:15 BREAK

4:15-5:30 SESSION #8 1.25 CLE CREDITS

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Legislative Update

Join us for a discussion about the Legislative Action for 2025 and what is on the horizon for prosecutors.

Mr. Zachary T. Daniels, Executive Director

Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Baton Rouge, LA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

8:00-11:30 Registration Registration Table

8:30-9:30 SESSION #9 1.0 CLE CREDIT

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Professionalism

Being a prosecutor remains a noble thing – one of the noblest, in fact. But, with public trust in government institutions at an all-time low, the environment for prosecutors has never been more challenging. How do we ensure that our profession remains above reproach? Join us for a candid discussion about the issues modern day prosecutors are facing, and what we can do to achieve justice with integrity.

Honorable Sharon Darville Wilson, Judge

Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Lake Charles, LA

9:30-9:45 BREAK

9:45-10:45 SESSION #10 1.0 CLE CREDIT

GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom DE

Ethics - There and Back Again – A Prosecutor's Tale

This class will analyze the seminal cases (i.e. Brady, Giglio, Kyles, and Napue) that govern a prosecutor's Bady obligations. It will explore how recent decisions from the USSC and LASC (i.e. Glossip and Robinson) have altered the landscape and the ethical consequences for prosecutors under Rule 3.8 (D).

Mr. Christopher Bowman, Special Prosecutor, Special Victims Unit

1st Judicial District, Shreveport, LA

10:45 ADJOURN